

Dr. Burgess Weekly Address March 16, 2018

Modernizing American Infrastructure

Hello, this is your Congressman Michael Burgess.

Infrastructure has been at the top of the congressional agenda for some time. Then yesterday, we heard the tragic news that a bridge collapsed in Miami, Florida, resulting in multiple injuries and fatalities. We do not have all the details about this situation, but it does serve as an urgent reminder of the criticality of our nation's infrastructure.

Certainly, our infrastructure in the United States struggles to meet the needs of the growing American population. The Trump Administration has found that more than 50,000 American bridges are rated as "structurally deficient." Not only is America's infrastructure becoming dangerous, but also costly.

In North Texas, the upgrade of infrastructure is a continuing problem. Over the last several years, our community has experienced unprecedented growth. Quite simply, our existing roads and bridges were not built to support our current population. Anyone who has experienced the traffic on our highways can attest to this rising need. We simply cannot grow without the support of our roads and bridges.

North Texas is not alone. Throughout the country, there is strong bipartisan support for repairing our nation's aging infrastructure. Over the last year, President Trump has made modernization a key priority for his Administration. Notably, President Trump's \$200 billion plan includes \$100 billion in matching funds for states and cities – this will ensure that much of this spending will be devoted to local partnerships. The president also recognizes that federal red tape has held back many of our nation's improvement projects. To fix this, he has proposed eliminating regulatory barriers for infrastructure redevelopment.

Our North Texas community has had a voice in the president's work. Last month, Fort Worth Mayor Betsy Price traveled to the White House to meet with President Trump about this initiative. After the meeting, Mayor Price said, "High-growth cities like Fort Worth face infrastructure challenges, and it's important that our needs are understood."

I thank Mayor Price for attending that meeting. Along with Mayor Price, I agree that we must address this growing problem. I am encouraged by the president's proposal to modernize our infrastructure, and I look forward to sharing updates as we progress on this critical issue.

As always, I appreciate your comments and your concerns on this issue or any other issue. May God bless you and your family and as the song says, God bless you Texas.